

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 10 are pending in the present application. Claims 5-9, 11 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5-9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,674,470, herein "Tanaka") in view of Mizoguchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,512,545, herein "Mizoguchi"); and Claims 1-4 and 10 were indicated as allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-4 and 10 are allowed.

The specification has been amended for clarification. No new matter is added.

The rejection of Claims 5-9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Mizoguchi is rendered moot in view of cancellation of Claims 5-9, 11 and 12.

Consequently, in light of the prior indication of allowed claims, the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and this present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests an early action favorable to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870